

**\$MILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND
BEFOEMEE 11**

martial was held, though the lieutenant, on presenting himself, was placed under arrest until his accounts had been adjusted. He then, paid over what was due, and the *conseil & administration* of the Foreign Legion having given him a discharge in full, the Duke of Eovigo ordered his release.

Meantime, Zola had tendered the resignation of his commission, and Marshal Soult, the Minister of War, who had been informed of the whole affair, objected that he ought not to have been set at liberty while this was still under consideration. Kovigo then wrote to the Minister justifying his own action;¹ and, in the result, after reference to the King in person, Zola's resignation was accepted. Such are those facts of the case which seem to be well authenticated. It is known that several documents have disappeared from one of the Zola *dossiers* at the French Ministry of War, and that at least one letter attributed to Colonel Combe, who commanded the Foreign Legion in Zola's time, was forged; while another, couched in the strangest and wildest language, was doctored if not entirely invented. In such circumstances it is impossible to ascertain the whole truth concerning the affair; but the lenient view taken of it by the Duke of Kovigo, the life of high rec-

titute and able work which Zola led in after as
in earlier
years, the favour subsequently shown him by
King Louis
Philippe, to whom his case had been submitted,
his later
correspondence with Marshal Soult, to whom
every partic-
ular was also known, — all tend to show that
whatever may
have been the exact nature of his delinquency,
it was far
less grave than his son's enemies wished one to
imagine.

*" La Y<§rit<§ en Marche," pp. 264-266. .